



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 5:00 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - July 16, 2001**

- ***In the West***, seasonal showers continue in the ***southern Rockies***, easing irrigation demands and boosting soil moisture reserves. Meanwhile, sharply cooler air is overspreading the drought-affected ***Northwest***, accompanied by scattered showers.
- ***On the Plains***, showers are developing in ***Montana***, aiding drought-stressed pastures and small grains. Beneficial showers are also overspreading the ***Dakotas***. Meanwhile, a severe heat wave continues to stress cotton, peanuts, sorghum, and other summer crops on the ***southern Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 95 to 105 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warmer weather is expanding into the region, where today's highs are forecast to approach 90 degrees F. Topsoil moisture is becoming limited in some areas, especially across the ***upper Mississippi Valley***, where significant rain last fell around June 20.
- ***In the South***, topsoil moisture remains adequate in most areas for pastures and summer crops, despite lingering long-term rainfall deficits from the ***Delta eastward***.

**Outlook:** For the remainder of the week, hot weather is forecast to persist on the ***Plains***. Heat is forecast to briefly expand into the ***westernmost Corn Belt***, where high temperatures may exceed 95 degrees F. Scattered showers will help to offset the effects of hot weather in the ***northern Plains and western Corn Belt***, but unfavorably dry weather will continue in the ***south-central U.S.*** The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 21-25 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures in the ***Plains and Corn Belt***, but cooler-than-normal weather in the ***West and Southeast***. Above-normal precipitation is expected in the ***Northwest, northern Plains, Corn Belt, and interior South***, but near- to below-normal rainfall is forecast across the ***south-central U.S.***

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)